

TOP SECRET

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GENERAL

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1. British plans for turning over Somaliland territory--
US Embassy London has learned, in discussing with the British Foreign Office the plans of the UK concerning the turnover of Somaliland territory to Italy, that the British have proposed to the Italians that they take over up to a line previously established by Anglo-Ethiopian agreement. Pointing out that by such a proposal Italian forces would occupy territory now held by the British under an agreement with Ethiopia, the Embassy foresees a dangerous situation if Italy should acquiesce in this suggestion. The Embassy indicates that present events in Eritrea are already widening the breach between Italy and Ethiopia and comments that the possibility cannot be dismissed that Ethiopia may attempt to recover the territory in question by force of arms.

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NO CHANGE in Class.

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